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TAGS: [NATO](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [MARR](#)

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN: FRENCH CIVIL AID FOCUSED ON  
AGRICULTURE, WHILE ADJUSTING MILITARY PRESENCE

REF: A. STATE 74362

[1B.](#) PARIS POINTS FOR JULY 2

[11.](#) (SBU) Deputy Chief of Staff in the interagency Afghanistan/Pakistan cell Yann Braem said July 22 that France had recently allocated 23 million Euros in non-military aid to Afghanistan this year for total civilian assistance of approximately 40 to 45 million Euros for 2009. Around half of the 23 million Euros will fund agriculture and rural development projects, especially in the Kapisa region where the majority of French troops are serving. France is planning to invest in short-, medium-, and long-term projects, with a current focus on more long-term agricultural schemes now that initial short-term infrastructure and agricultural supply projects are winding up. Beyond Kapisa, discussions with Afghan authorities on funding nationwide education and health programs are ongoing. Looking to 2010, France aims to consolidate civilian aid programs to ensure they remain consistent with Afghan priorities and to maintain close coordination with the U.S. PRT active in France's area of operations.

[12.](#) (SBU) The expected deployment of French gendarmes under NTM-A, with a mission to train Afghan police, is expected to take place this fall once a framework agreement is concluded under NTM-A, and this will reflect another approximately 30 million Euros in increased French assistance. Laurent Legodec, another member of the Af/Pak cell, added that following the presidential elections in the fall, France wants to continue efforts to bolster the national government and to start discussions on how best to support the upcoming regional elections.

[13.](#) (SBU) Legodec confirmed the plan to shift French forces currently in Kabul to Kapisa when Turkey takes over security responsibility for the capital region, in accordance with recent reports (ref B). The GOF plans to augment the two current battalions in Afghanistan with an additional company of approximately 150 personnel and the creation of a new base in Naghlu, which is now under construction. French troops would be deployed in Surobi (70 kilometers from Kabul) and Kapisa in the east and would be placed under the command of a French general in a Task Force. France also intends to reinforce its capabilities by sending 8 Caesar cannons and 3 of its "ultramodern" Tiger helicopters.

PEKALA